Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Cultures and Societies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Module Coordinator	**Dr Tylor Brand, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies**
What will you learn from this Elective?	Drawing on the expertise of a wide range of teaching staff, this module begins with introductory lectures to the modern Middle East and North Africa, exploring their societies and cultures through regionally and historically focused investigations. It continues with an exploration of historical and contemporary European and Western interventions and perspectives on the Middle East. How have these impacted on the region? Overall aims include: 1. Facilitating your engagement in a critical investigation of western narratives and political interventions in *MENA* 2. Exploring and assessing the societal impact of such interventions and representations in both historical and contemporary perspectives; 3. Equipping you with the knowledge and critical skills to investigate contemporary societal challenges of the region with a view to articulation of solutions; 4. Ensuring that your perspectives on MENA are informed by the views of your peers in the region through online discussion Broader aims include: • Development of the critical thinking skills and tools required to interrogate dominant narratives; • Enhancement of each student's development as a responsible global citizen
Student Workload	2.5 x hours per week self-directed study 2 hours per week team research project preparations
Assessment Components	Students will be assessed via: • Seminar - 40% • Reflective essay - 60%
Indicative Reading List	Mansell, P. *Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* London 2010 Said, E. *Orientalism*. New York 1978. M.Pace and S. Sen (editors) *Syrian Refugee Children in the Middle East andEurope: Integrating the Young and Exiled*. London 2018 Telhami, S. M. Barnett, "Introduction: Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East," 1-25 *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East*. Edited by S. Telhami, M.Barnett. London 2002.

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: 1. Recognise the traditions and preconceptions on which western and European representations of the societies and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa are founded. 2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through their application to presentations of challenges to the ideological preconceptions and representations of MENA's cultures and societies. 3. Examine critically the global and societal impact of the current state of western interventions and their accompanying narratives on MENA in both the western cultural context (especially Europe) and in MENA regions. 4. To begin to formulate critically informed solutions to such societal impact taking into account the perspectives of their MENA peers. 5. To demonstrate their understanding of the value of the development of an awareness of the ethical responsibility attached to conducting respectful, fair and inclusive discussions with their peers in Jerusalem and Beirut, while demonstrating sensitivity towards, competing narratives and "truth" claims. 6. Demonstrate the organisation of a personal value system, which has been informed and challenged by their participatory learning and constructive membership of a research team.